

Application No.: 10/721, 967
Attorney Docket No.: 13DV-14152 (07783-0136-01)

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D. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 4 has been amended as requested by the Examiner, and Replacement Figures are enclosed with this Amendment and Response. In particular, Figure 4 has been amended to renumber reference character 42 as reference character 56. No new matter is added by the amendment to Figure 4.

E. REMARKS

The present invention is directed to apparatus and methods for cleaning and repairing of thermal barrier coatings for components exposed to high temperatures, such as the hostile thermal environment of a gas turbine engine. More particularly, this invention is directed to tools and methods for cleaning and priming of specially coated surfaces on gas-turbine powered aircraft, such as a thermal barrier coating that has suffered localized spallation due to thermal fatigue and stress, poor coating processes, coating defects, localized damage, impact damage and other mechanical damage.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 21 were pending as of the date of the Office Action. Claims 1-14 were withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-14, without prejudice, and further cancels claim 15 without prejudice. New claims 22-35 are added by this amendment. Thus, claims 16-35 are pending upon entry of this Amendment.

37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) Objections

The Examiner has stated that

“the specification does not disclose that the first apparatus (defined in claim 15) is the apparatus that includes a reservoir communicably connected to the applicator by a dispensing tube (the apparatus as shown in Figure 1) or that the third apparatus (defined in claim 20) is the apparatus that includes an applicator attached to, but not communicably connected with the dispensing unit. Further, the limitation in claim 19 also do [sic] not have antecedent basis in the specification.

Applicant has amended the specification at Paragraph [0025] to address the examiner’s concerns. Since the new language of the specification is taught within the claims and the Figures, no new matter is added by the relevant amendments.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,413,578 to Stowell et al. in view of U.S. Patent 3,876,314 to Nehring. In light of Applicant’s

cancellation of claim 15, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and consideration and allowance of claims 16-35.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 16 to stand as an independent claim incorporating all the limitations of canceled base claim 15. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 16 is now allowable.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to correct a typographical error wherein the third apparatus was referred to as the "second " apparatus in lines 8 and 10.

Additionally, Applicant has added new dependent claims 22-35, which are derived from allowable claims 16-21, and whose limitations are taught within the original specification and figures. Applicant submits that no new matter results from these newly presented claims, and that no new matter is presented by any claim amendment made herein.

Amendments to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), requiring that Figure 4 be amended to renumber reference character 42 as reference character 56. That amendment has been made on the enclosed Replacement Figures. No new matter is added by the amendment to Figure 4.

F. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. No new matter is presented in this Amendment. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16, as amended, is neither anticipated by the cited prior art nor rendered obvious. Thus, dependent claims 17-22 are not rendered obvious by the cited art. New claims 23-35 are likewise not obvious in light of the cited art.

As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicant requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 16-35. If the Examiner

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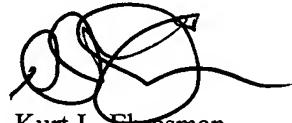
believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's attorney at the phone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

McNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC

By



Kurt L. Ehresman
Reg. No. 50,758
100 Pine Street
P.O. Box 1166
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1166
Tel: (717) 237-5458
Fax: (717) 237-5300
Attorney for Applicant

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